

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

SY-04 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00

IO-14 PER-05 DRC-01 OMB-01 /150 W

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O 241855Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2523 IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2830

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, IS

SUBJ: ISRAEL STEPS UP INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES

REF: JERUSALEM 1060

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN WAKE OF KIRYAT SHMONA AND MAALOT TERRORIST INCIDENTS, HIGH STATE OF ALERT FOR NEW TERRORIST ATTEMPT SUCH AS DESCRIBED IN JERUSALEM REFTEL HAS NOW SPREAD TO ENTIRE COUNTRY. IDF HAS INTENSIFIED ITS SECURITY ACTIVITIES ESPECIALLY IN NORTH-ERN ISRAEL AND WEST BANK. ISRAELIS ARE JITTERY, AS UNDERScoreD BY
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WIDESPREAD DEMANDS FOR ARMING LARGE PARTS OF THE CITIZENRY,

FOR STEPPING UP BORDER PATROL AND IDF ACTIVITY, AND FOR APPLYING DEATH PENALTY TO CAPTURED TERRORISTS. IRONICALLY, INCREASED SURVEILLANCE AND SECURITY ACTIVITIES HAVE THEMSELVES CONTRIBUTED TO SENSE OF ANXIETY, AS REFLECTED FOR INSTANCE IN CHAIN-REACTION OF EVENTS IN JERUSALEM AFTER RUMORS BEGAN SPREADING ABOUT TERRORIST ATTEMPT (REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. IDF EARLY MORNING MAY 23 KILLED SIX TERRORISTS AND CAPTURED TWO OTHERS WHO REPORTEDLY CROSSED FROM SYRIA INTO GOLAN HEIGHTS. MEDIA HAVE NOTED THAT TERRORISTS COULD ONLY HAVE CROSSED LINES WITH KNOWLEDGE OF SYRIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING TO MEDIA, SURVIVORS OF LATEST GROUP HAVE ADMITTED GROUP WAS SENT BY PDFLP FOR PURPOSE OF TAKING HOSTAGES FROM TWO KIBBUTZIM ON EAST BANK OF SEA OF GALILIEE IN ATTEMPTED REPLAY OF MAALOT INCIDENT. THEY REPORTEDLY HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION LIST OF TERRORISTS HELD IN ISRAELI PRISONS WHOSE RELEASE THEY WOULD HAVE DEMANDED IN EXCHANGE FOR SAFETY OF HOSTAGES AND WERE PLANNING TO USE ROMANIAN, JAPANESE, AUSTRIAN, OR FRENCH AMBASSADOR AS INTER-MEDIARY.

3. ISRAELI PRESS MAY 24 HEADLINES HIGH STATE OF ALERT IN GALILIEE. DURING NIGHT IDF AND BORDER GUARDS CARRIED OUT WIDESPREAD SEARCHES INCLUDING USE OF HELICOPTERS, SIMILAR TO INTENSIVE USE OF HELICOPTERS OVER JERUSALEM AND ITS APPROACHES TWO DAYS EARLIER. ADDITIONAL WEAPONS WERE DISTRIBUTED ON ORDERS OF CHIEF OF STAFF TO NUMBER OF SETTLEMENTS IN WESTERN GALILIEE. ROAD BLOCKS HAVE BEEN SET UP ON A NUMBER OF ROADS, WITH THOSE CLOSEST TO LEBANESE BORDER COMPLETELY CLOSED TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. IN SOME SETTLEMENTS SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND EXTRA GUARDS PLACED AROUND PUBLIC BUIDLINGS.

4. SIMILAR STATE OF ALERT PREVAILS IN WEST BANK (REFTEL). THERE ARE ROAD BLOCKS REPORTEDLY ON ALL MAIN ROADS IN WEST BANK, AS IS TRUE IN MANY PARTS OF ISRAEL PROPER. IDF AND BORDER GUARDS CARRIED OUT PATROLS IN A NUMBER OF VILLAGES AND IN JERUSALEM SUBURBAN AREAS IN LAST 24 HOURS. IDF PRESENCE IN JERUSALEM IS TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

5. IN TRYING TO ASSESS EFFECTIVENESS OF INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES, HANNA ZEMER, EDITOR OF DAVAR, HAS WRITTEN THOUGHTFUL
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COMMENTARY WARNING ISRAELI PUBLIC OF UNEXPECTED DANGERS OF OVER-REACTION. SHE NOTES THAT INDISCRIMINATE DISTRIBUTION OF ARMS TO CIVILIANS MAY LEAD TO VIOLENCE NOT ON PART OF TERRORISTS BUT BY TRIGGER-HAPPY OR UNSTABLE ELEMENTS OF POPULATION. MOREOVER, AWARENESS OF STEPPED-UP PROTECTIVE MEASURES MAY ONLY ENCOURAGE TERRORISTS TO USE MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS AND PERHAPS ENCOURAGE ARAB GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS LIBYA TO INCREASE ARMS AND MATERIAL SUPPORT OF FEDAYEEN. EXAGGERATED

CAUTION AND FEAR MAY ALSO DO GRIEVOUS DAMAGE TO DELICATE RELATIONS BETWEEN JEWS AND ISRAELI ARAB MINORITY. ZEMER WARNS THAT IF ISRAEL DOES NOT USE SOUND JUDGMENT AND COOL REASON, ISRAELIS MAY ACHIEVE TERRORIST PURPOSE OF DISRUPTING NORMAL WAY OF LIFE BY THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

5. COMMENT. ISRAELI AUTHORITIES MUST HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT IN CURRENT MOOD OF ANXIETY AND ANGER, DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONS COULD PRECIPITATE ACCIDENTS AND EVEN LEAD TO UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS. WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT IT, SITUATION COULD LEAD OVER TIME TO CREATION OF SIEGE MENTALITY AMONG JITTERY POPULACE, EGGED ON BY RIGHT-WING RHETORIC, WITH SERIOUS POTENTIAL FOR OUTBURSTS DIRECTED AGAINST LOCAL ARAB MINORITIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PARAMILITARY FORCES, SECURITY, CIVIL DEFENSE, INTERROGATIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV02830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740130-0942
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740518/aaaaapfn.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: JERUSALEM 1060
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAEL STEPS UP INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005